

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 A-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P 151427Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6547

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, CASC (TERUGGI, FRANK; HORMAN, CHARLES)

SUBJ: TERUGGI AND HORMAN CASES

REF: CHARGE-KARKASHIAN TELECON NOV 14

FOR ARA - DEPUTY ASST SECY SHLAUDEMAN

FOLLOWING IS TEXT PURDY MEMCON, DATED NOV 13, AS REQUESTED
REFTELECON:

1. QUOTE. AT APPROXIMATELY 1830 HOURS ON NOV 12 I RECEIVED
A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MAN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS LES
WHITTEN, AN ASSISTANT TO THE COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON. HE
STARTED OUT BY SAYING THAT THERE HAD BEEN "SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS"
ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE IN SANTIAGO
WITH RELATION TO THE HORMAN AND TERUGGI CASES IN THE U.S.
PRESS AND SPECIFICALLY IN LETTERS TO THE FULBRIGHT COMMITTEE.
IN ADDITION TO THE LETTER FROM PROFESSOR FAGEN AND THAT FROM
MR. HORMAN, WHITTEN SAID THAT THERE NOW HAD APPEARED LETTERS
OR STATEMENTS FROM MRS. JOYCE HORMAN AND, IN THE CASE OF
TERUGGI, FROM STEVEN VOLK. ALTHOUGH I TOLD MR. WHITTEN THAT
HE SHOULD CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS PEOPLE,
WHOM THE EMBASSY HAD INFORMED OF THESE CASES, I DID ANSWER
SOME OF HIS QUESTIONS.

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2. AMONG THE SPECIFIC MATTERS HE WAS INTERESTED IN WAS THE EMBASSY'S PROMPTNESS IN ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE TERUGGI AND HORMAN WHEN WE HEARD THAT THEY HAD BEEN DETAINED OR WERE MISSING. IN ADDITION TO INFORMING HIM (HE ALREADY HAD THE INFORMATION AND ONLY WANTED TO CONFIRM IT) ABOUT OUR ANSWERS IN THIS RESPECT, I ALSO POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT AS IT HAD TURNED OUT BOTH MEN WERE ALREADY DEAD BEFORE THE CONSULATE WAS FIRST ADVISED THAT THEY WERE MISSING OR DETAINED. WHITTEN WAS INTERESTED IN THE CALLS THAT FRIENDS OF THE HORMANS HAD RECEIVED ALLEGING TO BE FROM MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND AS TO WHAT WE HAD DONE ABOUT INVESTIGATING THESE CALLS. I POINTED OUT THAT, IN ADDITION TO TALKING TO THE PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN CALLED, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD ALSO TAKEN UP THE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. THEY HAD RECEIVED DENIALS THAT THE CALLS HAD BEEN MADE BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ALSO THAT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAD EVER DETAINED HORMAN.

3. WHITTEN HAD BEGUN OUR CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO WERE MAKING THE COMPLAINTS TO THE FULBRIGHT COMMITTEE ABOUT THESE CASES WERE "MOSTLY A BUNCH OF LEFTISTS" BUT IT BECAME CLEAR DURING THE CONVERSATION THAT HE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT AS TRUE MUCH OF WHAT HAD BEEN SAID. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT MIGHT BE THEIR MOTIVATION AND HE REPLIED "I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THEIRS BUT MINE IS SIMPLY IN GETTING THE STORY." I POINTED OUT TO MR. WHITTEN THAT THE EMBASSY HAD HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THE STORY TOO, IN THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING IN SANTIAGO AT THE TIME AND THAT, FRANKLY, MR. HORMAN AND JOYCE HORMAN HAD NOT ALWAYS BEEN COMPLETELY OPEN IN TELLING US ABOUT INFORMATION THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED. AT ONE POINT WHITTEN ASKED ME (IN REFERENCE TO HORMAN) "WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED THEN, DID THEY MURDER HIM?" I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HORMAN'S DEATH TO MAKE SUCH A JUDGMENT AND THAT I DOUBTED THAT ANY ONE ELSE DID. IN THIS LIGHT I QUESTIONED THE USE OF THE WORD "MURDER" BY MR. WHITTEN AND ASKED THAT HE NOT USE THAT WORD IN REFERENCE TO ANYTHING I HAD SAID. WHEN HE ASKED "WHAT OTHER WORD WOULD YOU USE," I REPLIED "WHY NOT SIMPLY SAY HE WAS KILLED."

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4. LATER MR. WHITTEN ASKED ME WHO COLONEY RYAN, WHO HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY THE HORMANS, WAS. I IDENTIFIED COLONEL RYAN AND SAID THAT HIS ONLY ROLE IN THE HORMAN CASE HAD BEEN TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO HORMAN WHEN HE WAS IN VINA DEL MAR BETWEEN SEPT 11 AND 15. WHITTEN ASKED IF I KNEW THAT COLONEL RYAN HAD TAKEN A REGISTRATION CARD FROM THE MIRAMAR HOTEL IN VINA DEL MAR. I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT KNOW THAT AND COULD SEE NO REASON FOR HIM TO DO SO. (I SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED COLONEL RYAN

BY TELEPHONE OF THIS CONVERSATION AND COLONEL RYAN TOLD ME THAT HE HAD NEVER TAKEN ANY REGISTRATION CARD FROM THE MIRAMAR BUT HAD MERELY CHECKED HORMAN'S REGISTRATION CARD TO VERIFY THE DATE OF HIS RETURN TO SANTIAGO, AS REQUESTED BY CAPTAIN DAVIS.) I ASKED WHITTEN WHY HE WAS INTERESTED IN COLONEL RYAN AND HE REPLIED "THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE UP HERE WHO THINK THERE IS SOME KIND OF A COVER-UP GOING ON IN SANTIAGO, AND IN VIEW OF THE COVER-UP HERE IN THE WATERGATE, WE WOULDN'T WANT ANOTHER LITTLE WATERGATE DOWN THERE." I ASSURED HIM THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NOTHING TO HIDE AND WAS NOT "COVERING-UP" ANYTHING.

5. IN CLOSING, MR. WHITTEN THANKED ME FOR MY "FRANKNESS" AND I SAID THAT I WOULD DEPEND UPON HIS WELL-KNOWN SENSE OF FAIR PLAY IN REPORTING OUR CONVERSATION. UNQUOTE.
THOMPSON

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